

a1  
Cont'd  
sub B1

comprising the administration of a pharmacologically effective dose of a basic fibroblast growth factor to said animal.

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Please amend claim 10 as follows:

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a2

10. (amended) A method of treating an individual at risk for sepsis, comprising the step of administering a pharmacologically effective dose of a basic fibroblast growth factor to said individual to inhibit generation of ceramide from sphingomyelin to prevent endothelial apoptosis resulting from sepsis.

sub C3

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✓ ✓  
Please cancel claims 8 and 9.

### REMARKS

### AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-7 and 10 remain in this application. Claims 8 and 9 have been cancelled. Claim 4 and 10 has been amended to more clearly describe the mechanisms of the methods described therein. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made by the